



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

August 2012

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

****BridgeStat was recognized by the International Association of Crime Analysts in the Statistical Bulletin Category at 2011 IACA Training Conference.***



Part I Total Crime

- While serious crime in Cambridge has risen 4% when compared with the first 8 months of 2011, when measured against the 5-year weighted average for this time frame, a slight 1% drop (33 fewer crimes counted) has been recorded. The majority of the increase from 2011 to 2012 can be attributed to the overall increase in larceny (+9%), with 133 more thefts reported when compared with the first 240 days of 2011.
- A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **101 additional property crimes recorded in the first 8 months** of 2012, to register a **5% incline** when placed against the 2011 statistics.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	7/3 - 7/30	7/31 - 8/27	Change		2011	2012	Change		Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	30	24	-20%		268	263	-2%		280	-6%
Total Property Crime	274	285	4%		1946	2047	5%		2063	-1%
Total Part I Crime	304	309	2%		2214	2310	4%		2343	-1%



Part I Property Crime

Larceny from motor vehicles **(+16%)** with 59 additional incidents, and larceny from persons **(+38%)** with 68 thefts above last year, account for the vast majority of the rise **(+5%)** in property crimes so far this year. Housebreaks, which had increased by **43%** when compared to the First Quarter of 2011, have cooled off considerably over the past 4 months and are now **1% under last year's total**.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	7/3 - 7/30	7/31 - 8/27	Change		2011	2012	Change		Avg	Change
Burglary	52	41	-21%		355	337	-5%		313	8%
Commercial Break	8	7	-13%		63	48	-24%		61	-21%
Housebreak	44	34	-23%		292	289	-1%		252	15%
Larceny	212	231	9%		1488	1621	9%		1626	0%
Larceny (Misc)	4	6	50%		22	31	41%		20	55%
Larceny from Building	27	36	33%		269	252	-6%		251	0%
Larceny from MV	50	51	2%		369	428	16%		519	-18%
Larceny from Person	24	23	-4%		178	246	38%		203	21%
Larceny from Residence	17	18	6%		132	148	12%		121	22%
Larceny of Bicycle	51	68	33%		253	254	0%		225	13%
Larceny of Plate	3	3	0%		33	24	-27%		33	-27%
Larceny of Services	0	1	IN-CALC		17	8	-53%		18	-56%
Shoplifting	36	25	-31%		215	230	7%		237	-3%
Auto Theft	10	13	30%		103	89	-14%		125	-29%
Total Property Crime	274	285	4%		1946	2047	5%		2063	-1%



Part I Violent Crime

- Between January and the end of August of 2011, there were 268 violent crimes reported. For that same time period in 2012, **there were 263 violent crimes registered in Cambridge, 5 incidents below last year (-2%) and 17 incidents under the projected total for the first 8 months of the year (-6%).**
- There has been one murder in Cambridge in 2012. The crime occurred on the night of June 3rd on Willow Street. A 16-year-old female was the victim of a drive-by shooting. This case remains under investigation.
- Rape is down 5% and robbery has fallen 8% when compared with the first 8 months of 2011.
- There has been a slight uptick of 2% for aggravated assaults, with 3 more incidents than in 2011. The majority of the upward spiral of this violent crime can be attributed to an increase in domestic-related incidents.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	7/3 - 7/30	7/31 - 8/27	Change		2011	2012	Change		Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC		1	1	0%		1	0%
Rape	1	3	200%		19	18	-5%		21	-14%
Robbery	8	6	-25%		86	79	-8%		92	-14%
Commercial Robbery	0	1	IN-CALC		18	13	-28%		16	-19%
Street Robbery	8	5	-38%		68	66	-3%		76	-13%
Aggravated Assault	21	15	-29%		162	165	2%		166	-1%
Total Violent Crime	30	24	-20%		268	263	-2%		280	-6%



MURDER

No Patterns

- On Sunday, 6/3/12, at approximately 8pm, 2 female victims ages 16 and 17 were in the area of 34 Willow St when they were shot by unknown suspects who drove by in a motor vehicle. Both victims were transported to the hospital where the 16-year-old victim, Charlene Holmes, was pronounced dead. The 17-year-old victim was critically injured and is now recuperating at home.
- The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact Cambridge Police at 617-349-3370.
- This was the first homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2012.
- 27 of the 34 murders in Cambridge since 1995 have been cleared by arrest or by the suicide of the perpetrator, which translates to an 79% clearance rate over that 17-year period. For comparison, the clearance rate for homicides was 65% nationally and 50% in New England in 2010.

Change*

Last 4 Weeks

*IN -CAL

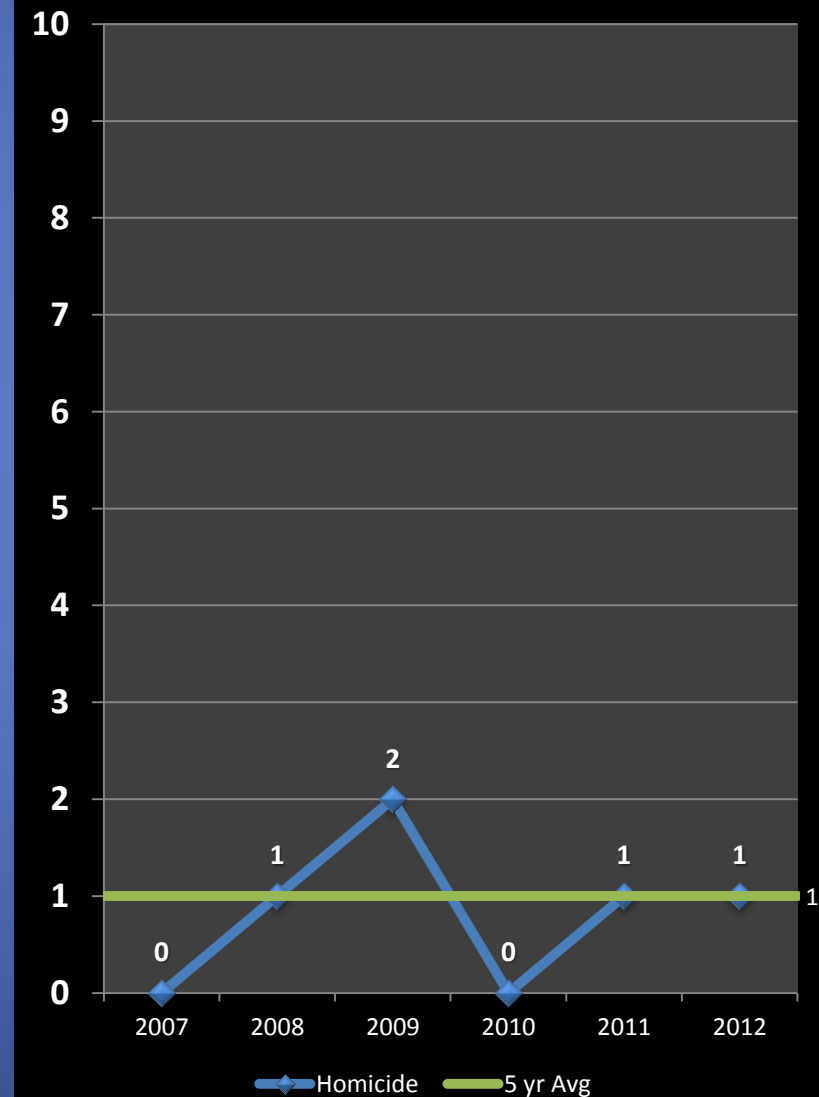
Previous Year

*IN -CAL

5 Year Average

*IN -CAL

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





RAPE

No Patterns

- Over the first eight months of 2012, there were 18 rapes reported in Cambridge, 1 less incident than during the same time frame last year. There were 3 rapes reported in Cambridge in August. 1 of the sexual crimes was categorized as a domestic rape that occurred in 2005; the other 2 crimes were classified as acquaintance scenarios. 17 of the 18 rapes in Cambridge so far in 2012 were categorized as non-stranger incidents. A blitz scenario rape in late April remains under investigation at the present time.
- On Friday, August 17, 2012, the Harvard University Police Department issued the following alert: a female was the victim of a rape in the area of Oxford and Kirkland Streets near Harvard University on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, sometime after 11:00 PM. Harvard University Police Department detectives are working with Cambridge Police Department detectives to investigate this incident. The description in this incident does not match that of a suspect involved in a rape the occurred inside Harvard Yard on August 10th, 2012.
- The incidents of August 10th and 14th are the first stranger rapes at Harvard University in over 12 years. On average, Harvard reports 4 acquaintance rapes per year.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

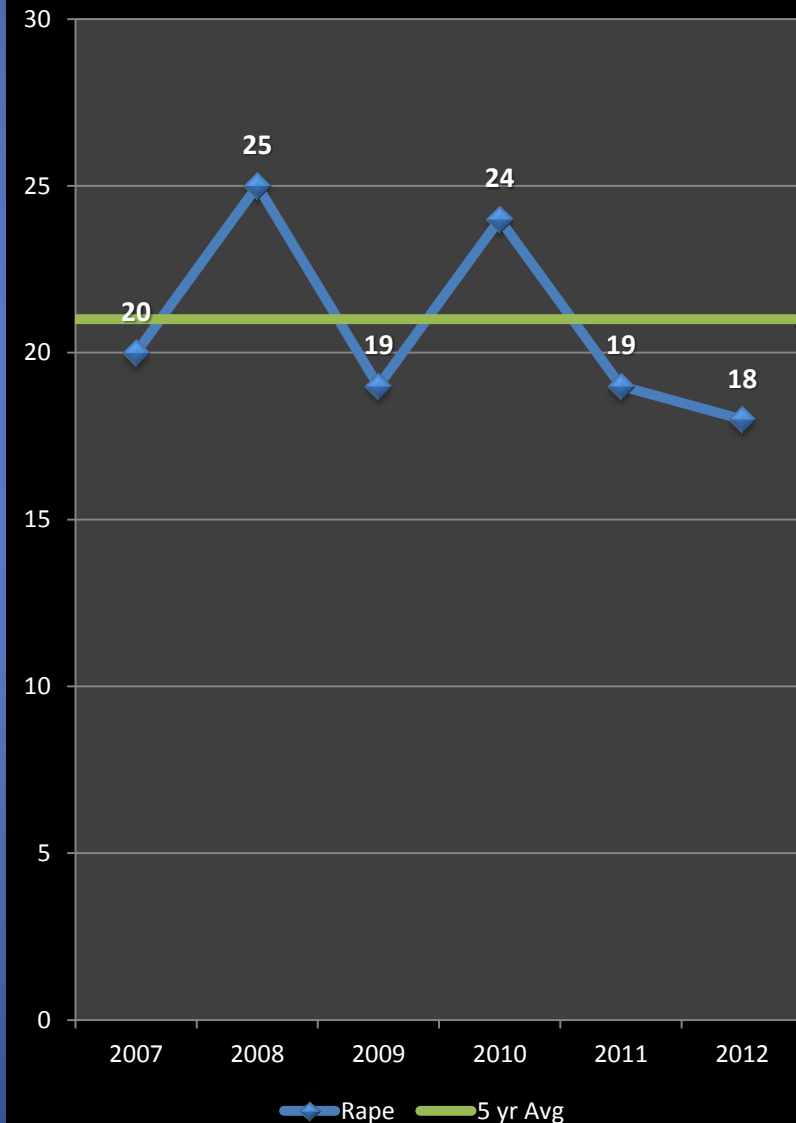
5 Year Average

In -Cal

-5%

-14%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- When compared to the first 8 months of 2011, aggravated assaults have increased 2%, with three additional incidents counted in 2012. When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for the first 8 months of this year, there has been a microscopic decrease of 1%, with 1 fewer incident below the projected average of 166 assaults. Over the past 4 weeks, there was a decrease of 6 assaults from the total of 21 incidents in July.
- 56 of the 165 aggravated assaults (34% - slightly higher than average year) that were reported so far in 2012 were categorized as domestic in nature. Assaults between homeless individuals in Harvard and Central Squares have been on the increase since the warm weather began in May.
- The majority of the bar / alcohol related aggravated assaults in Cambridge in 2012 have been late on weekend nights in Harvard and Central Squares.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

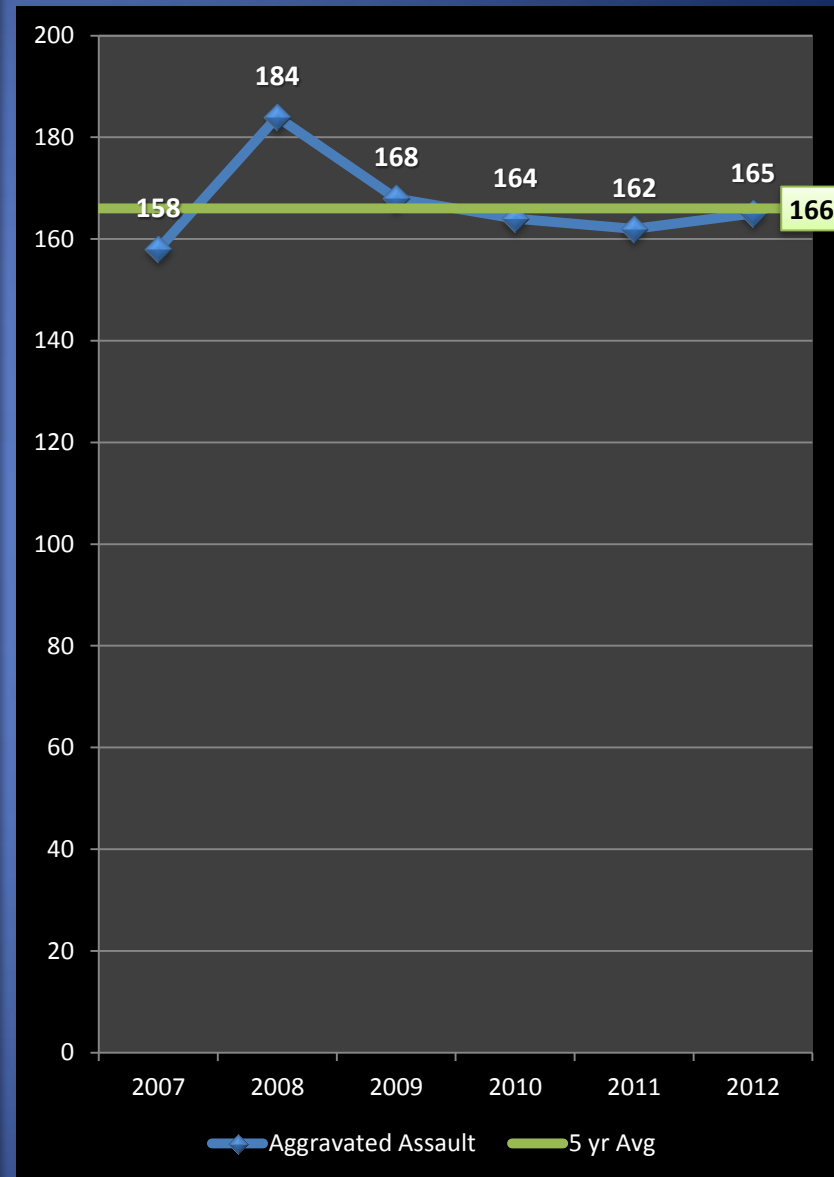
-29%

Previous Year

+2%

5 Year Average

-1%





ROBBERY

No Patterns

- The 5-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first 8 months of the year is 92 incidents. From January 1st to August 27th, 79 robberies were reported to record a 14% decrease below the projected total. The 79 robberies reported in Cambridge in the first 8 months of 2012 represents seven fewer robberies than during the same time period in 2011, which translates to an 8% reduction.
- Street robberies have fallen 13% when measured against the 5-year average and 3% when compared to the 2011 total for the first 8 months of the year, with 2 fewer incidents recorded. Over the first 8 months of 2012, there have been only 13 commercial robberies reported. This list includes 6 banks and 4 drug store robberies, 3 of which were shoplifting incidents that escalated into violent confrontations with clerks at pharmacies. Arrests have been made in 5 of the 6 bank robberies.
- There were only 14 street robberies in Cambridge during the warm weather months of July and August. 6 of the 14 street robberies reported in the City this summer have been within the confines of Harvard Square. These incidents are occurring very late on weekend nights. Homeless individuals have either been the victim or the perpetrator in the majority of these robberies. There have been 3 arrests in this series. There has been nothing new reported in this trend since July 29th, 2012.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

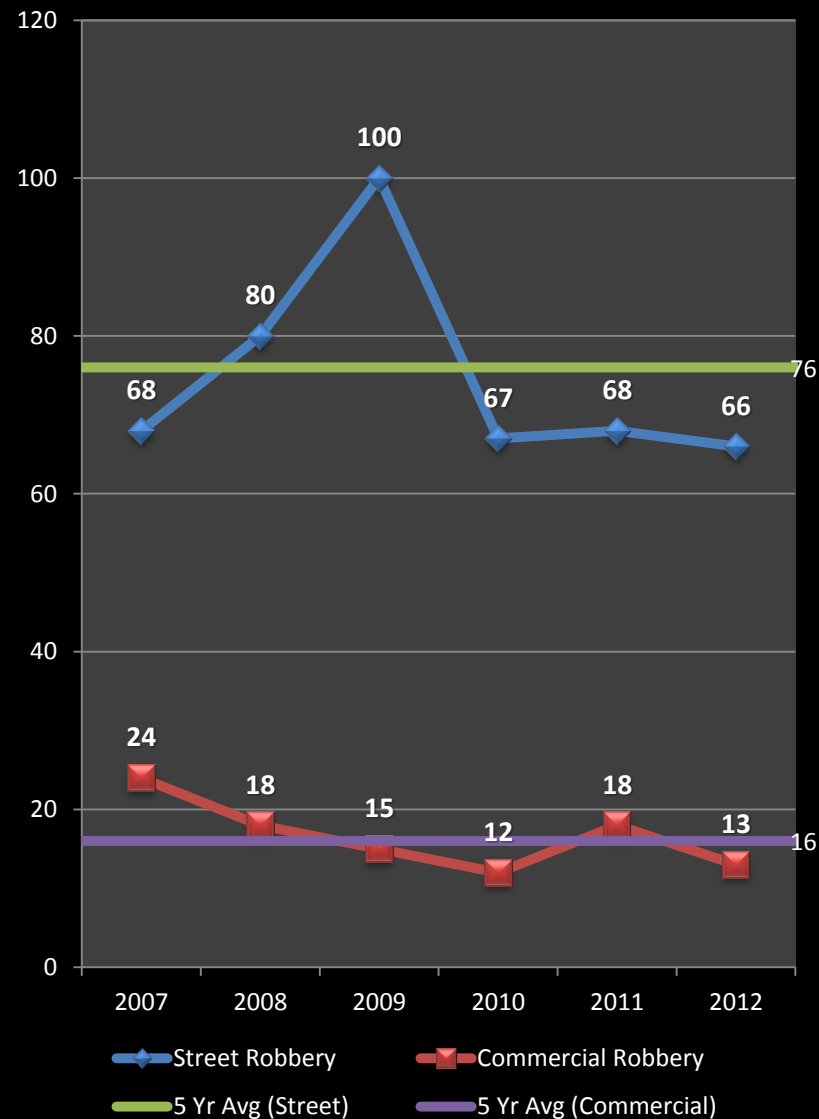
-25%

Previous Year

-8%

5 Year Average

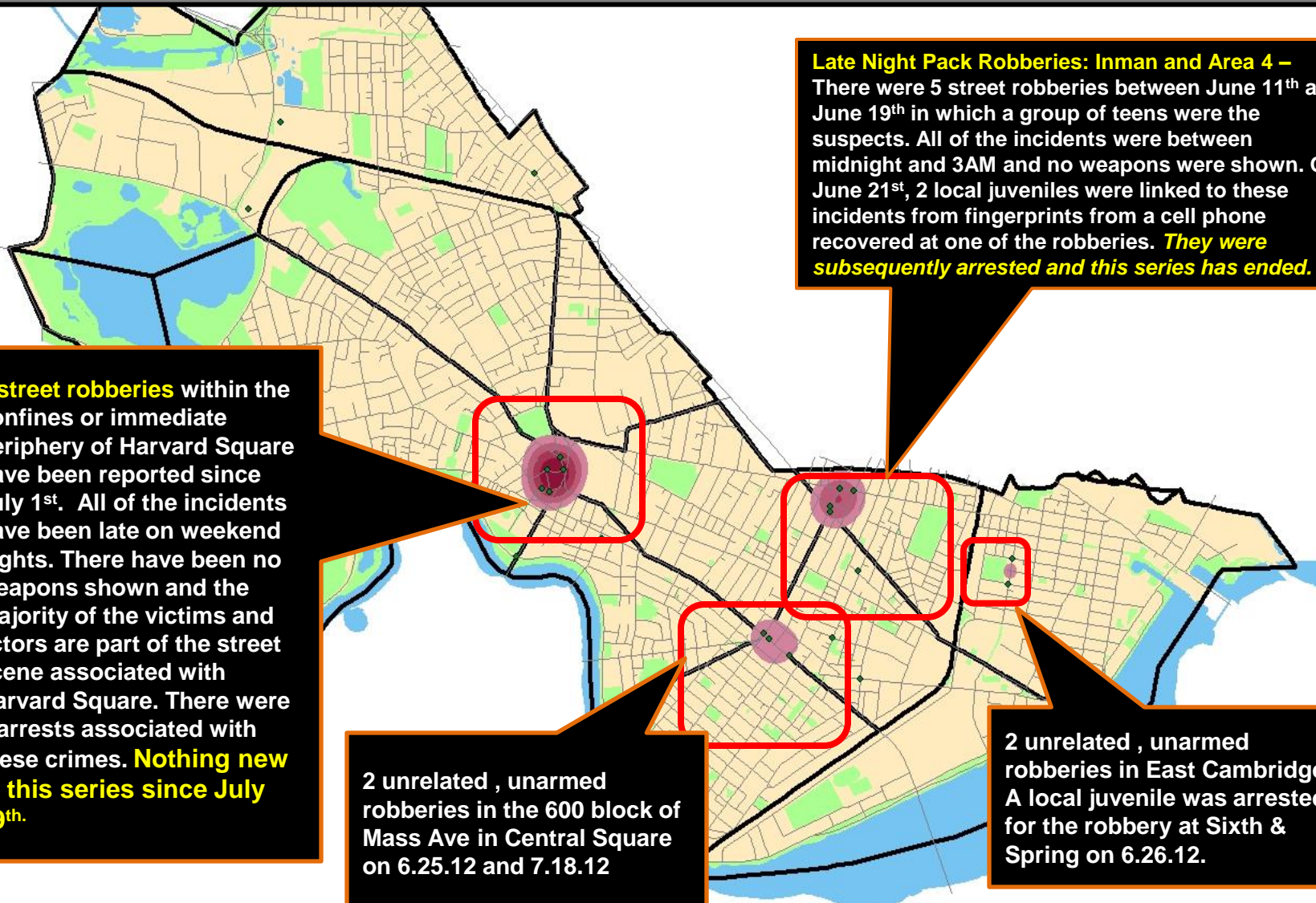
-14%





Street Robbery in Cambridge: 6.1.12 to 8.27.12

An exceptionally quiet July and August for Cambridge, with 14 street robberies reported and no predatory patterns identified.





BURGLARY

Emerging Patterns

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is up 8% when compared to the 5-year average, with 24 additional incidents above the projected total of 313 crimes, and down 5% when compared with last year's total for the first 8 months of the year, with 18 fewer burglaries counted. When comparing this property crime with July of 2012, a 21% decrease has been registered (11 fewer burglaries counted).
- Commercial burglary has dropped 24% when compared with the first 8 months of 2011, and with 15 fewer incidents recorded, and has dropped 21% when measured against the 5-year average. The 48 commercial burglaries in 2012 have been scattered throughout the City with no discernible spatial or temporal pattern identified.
- Approximately 70% of all the housebreaks in Cambridge in 2012 have been clustered in 4 pattern areas: Area 4 / Inman, West Cambridge, Peabody, and Cambridgeport / Riverside. 3 of the 4 areas have shown marked decreases in the past month. A series of breaks in Cambridgeport at the end of August may have been interdicted with the arrest of juveniles from Boston.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

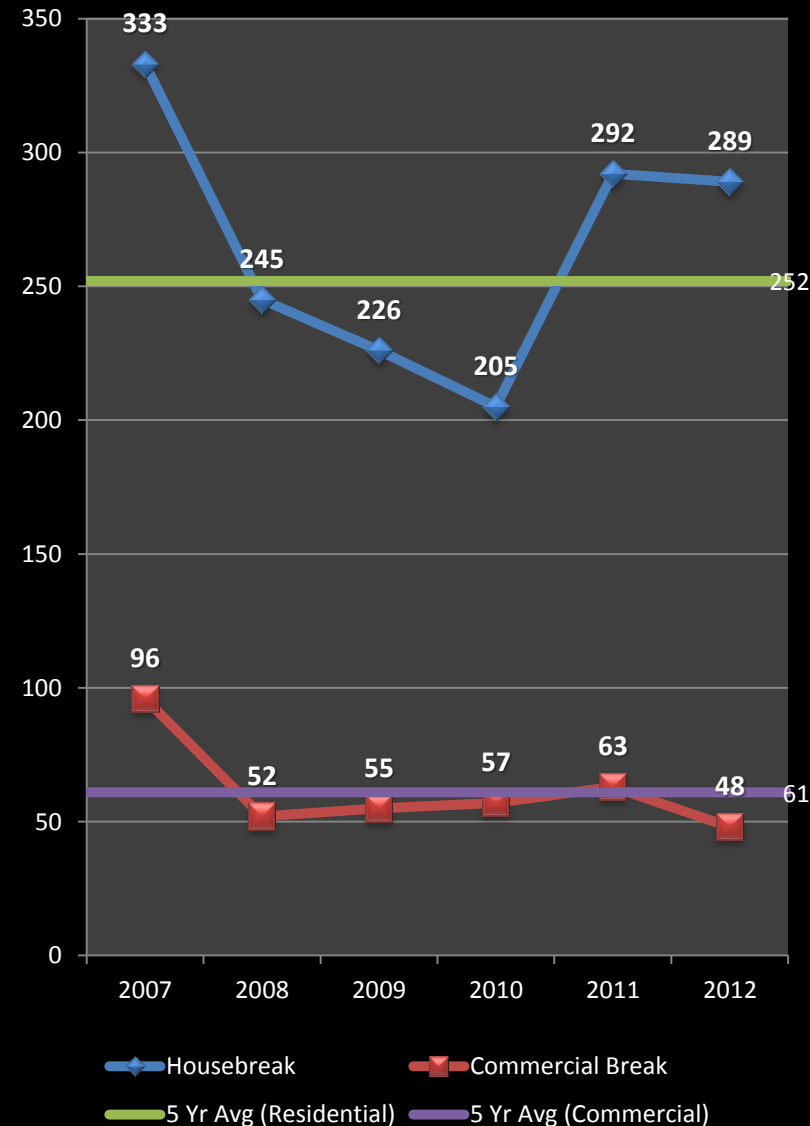
Previous Year

5 Year Average

-21%

-5%

+8%





Housebreaks in Cambridge: 6.1.12 to 8.27.12

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

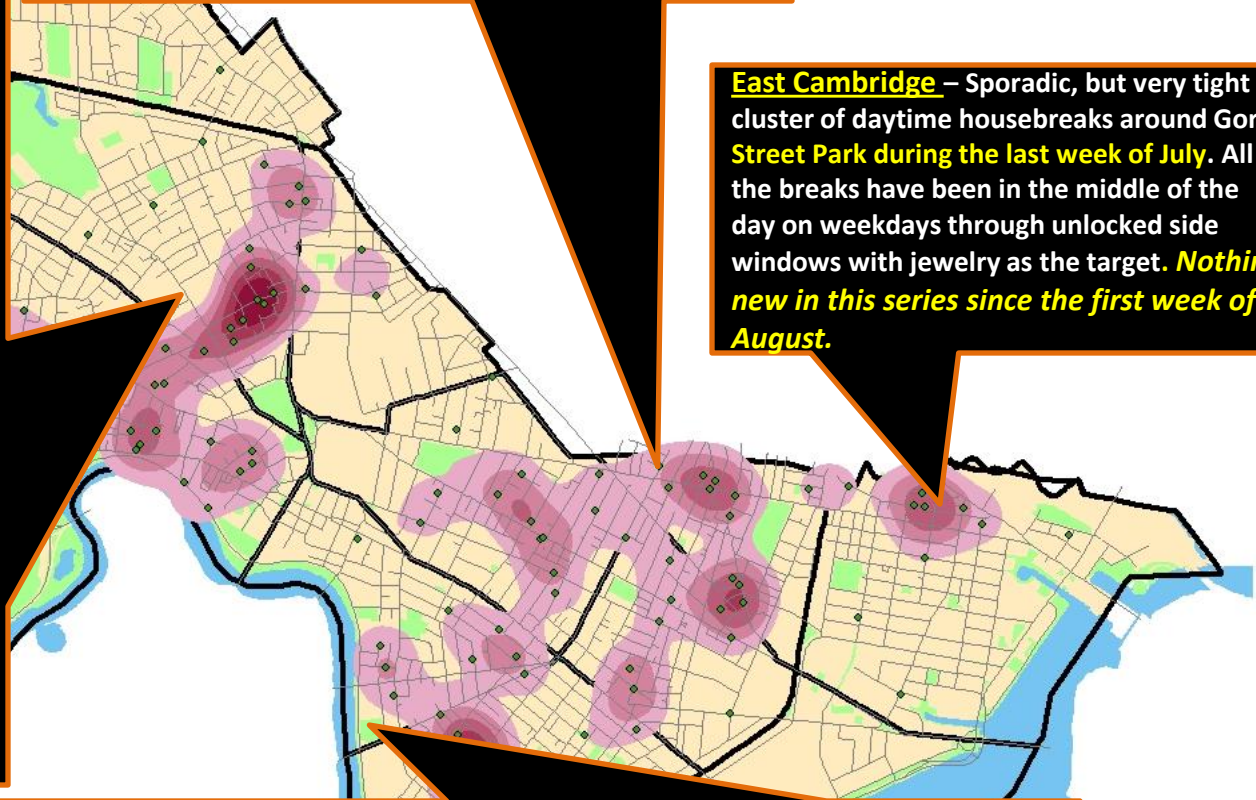
Peabody – Multiple unit apartment buildings near Cambridge Common have been involved in sporadic series since early in 2012. After a 2-month hiatus, this pattern surfaced again in the second week in June. Occasional daytime breaks in the southern portion of the Avon Hill District. Side window entries with laptops is the target of the thieves. **This series subsided during August with only two breaks on Shepard Street on 8.7.12.**

West Cambridge - This pattern heated up in the middle of July. There has been a series of weekday, daytime housebreaks through unlocked rear doors and side windows in single family residences bordered by Brattle and Mt Auburn Streets. **Only 2 housebreaks in West Cambridge in August, with extensive extra patrol coverage which continues as the Summer ends.**

Area 4 / Inman – This series reemerged after a 2-month hiatus between late April and the middle of June. Mostly late afternoon breaks through rear doors between Thursdays and Saturdays. Majority of apartments had multiple roommates with laptops as targets. 5 housebreaks in July with similarities to previous pattern in this area.

Only 4 breaks in these two neighborhoods in August. Previous pattern has dissipated.

East Cambridge – Sporadic, but very tight cluster of daytime housebreaks around Gore Street Park during the last week of July. All the breaks have been in the middle of the day on weekdays through unlocked side windows with jewelry as the target. **Nothing new in this series since the first week of August.**



Cambridgeport / Riverside - From the middle of June to early in July, there was a series of late night housebreaks in close proximity in these neighborhoods. The majority of the incidents were between midnight and 5AM. 2 juveniles who are residents of these neighborhoods were linked to this series via fingerprints. **This pattern has been downgraded and there was very little activity in July. A new pattern surfaced at the end of August.**

August
2012



Housebreaks

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have deployed extra patrols to the affected areas in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks.
- CPD is also utilizing plainclothes officers and detectives in the affected areas.
- Several arrests have been made.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their homes, and their belongings from burglaries:
 - Try “**casing**” your own home.
 - **ALWAYS lock your doors and windows.** Many housebreaks have occurred through open windows or unlocked doors.
 - **Leave a light on** when you leave.
 - Install motion sensor lights.
 - **NEVER** prop open the door or let someone in behind you.
 - **Be vigilant.** If you suspect suspicious activity, please report it to the police immediately by calling **617-349-3300**.
 - **Document serial numbers** of all electronics and take pictures of all valuables.
 - **Request a Residential Security Survey** from the Cambridge Police Department. For more info, please call **617-349-3236**.
- For more info on how to protect yourself from housebreaks, visit www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips.



LARCENY

Emerging Patterns

- Overall, **larceny increased by 9%** when compared with the first 8 months of 2011 and is holding steady when measured against the 5-year weighted average.
- The increase in larceny from motor vehicles (+16%) can be attributed to a surge in thefts during the snowless First Quarter of this year when compared with the first three months of 2011 when there were 70 inches of snow on the ground. **Despite reporting only a 2% increase when measured versus the previous 4 weeks, a marked increase in and around the neighborhoods of Central Square (Area 4, Cambridgeport, Mid-Cambridge and Riverside) has been identified.**
- Larcenies from persons continue to decline in August with a 4% reduction recorded when compared with the previous 4 weeks. **However, this crime type is still up 38% when compared to last year.**
- So far this year, there have been 254 reported bike thefts in Cambridge, which is in line with the 253 reported through this time frame in 2011.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

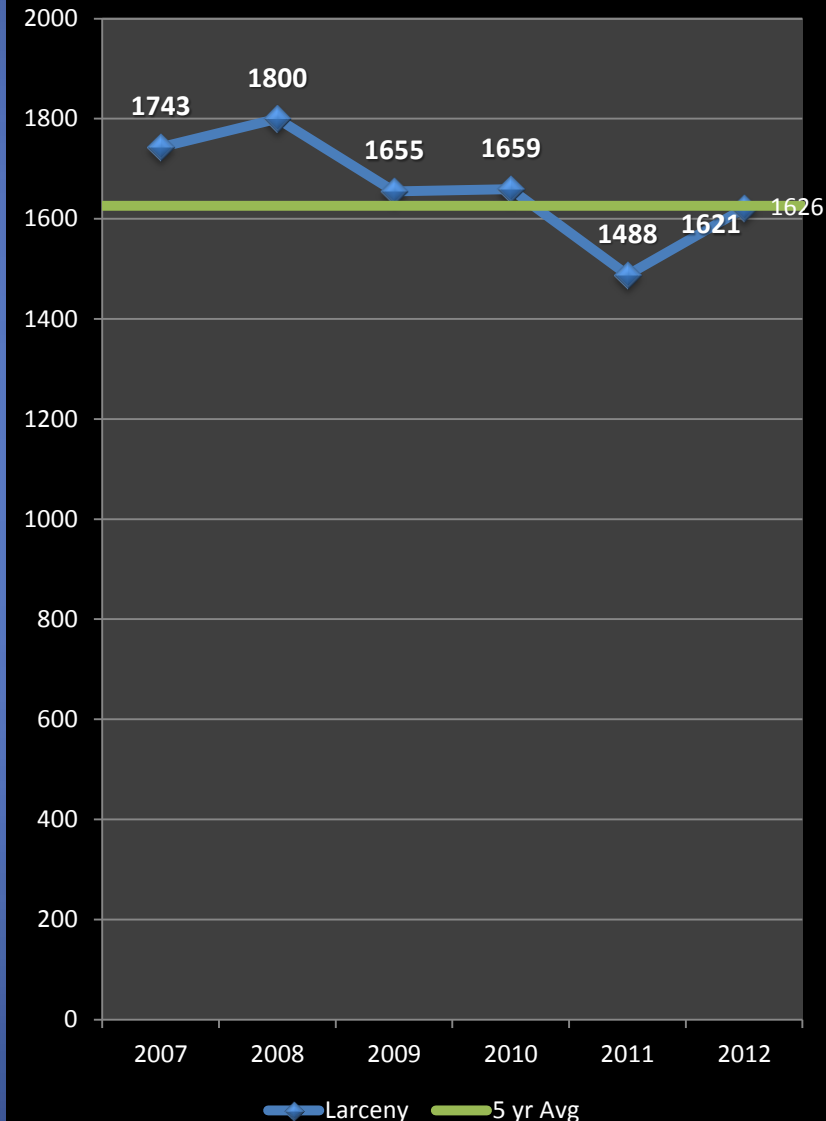
+9%

Previous Year

+9%

5 Year Average

0%





LARCENY: *from MV*

Emerging Patterns

- Larcenies from MVs have climbed 16% when compared with the first 8 months of 2011, with **59 additional incidents counted**. The majority of this incline can be attributed to a 75% surge when compared to the first 93 days of last year when the streets of Cambridge were under 70 inches of snow cover.
- Larcenies from Motor Vehicles are **down 18%** when compared with the 5-year average, with **91 incidents below** the norm for the first 8 months of the year. When measured against the previous 4 weeks, thefts from MVs rose by 1% with 1 additional incident more than in July of 2012.
- During the last 2 weeks of August, there has been a sharp increase in larceny from motor vehicles with 30 crimes reported over a 10-day period. The area of West Cambridge in close proximity to the 200 block of Mt Auburn and adjacent side streets was identified as a potential hot spot with activity in the early morning hours. Another series of LMVs may be emerging along the Prospect Street axis between Area 4 and Mid-Cambridge on weekend nights.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

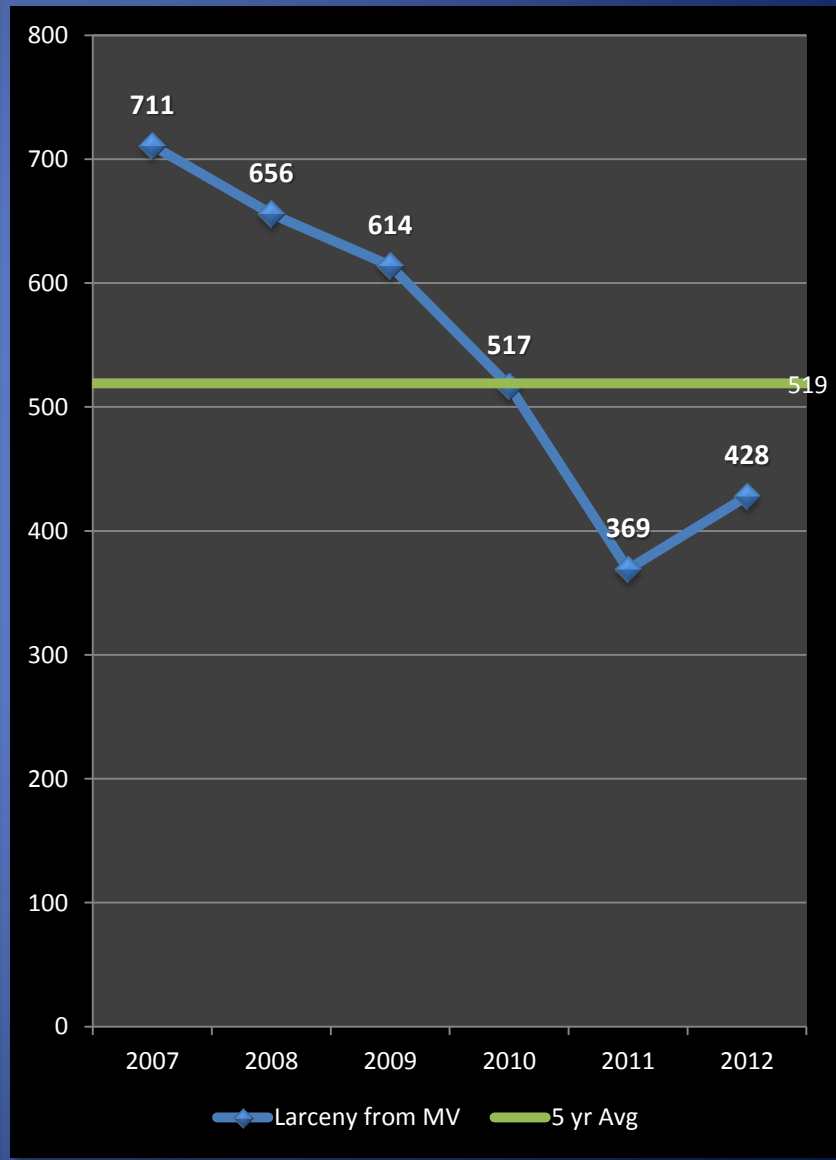
+2%

Previous Year

+16%

5 Year Average

-18%



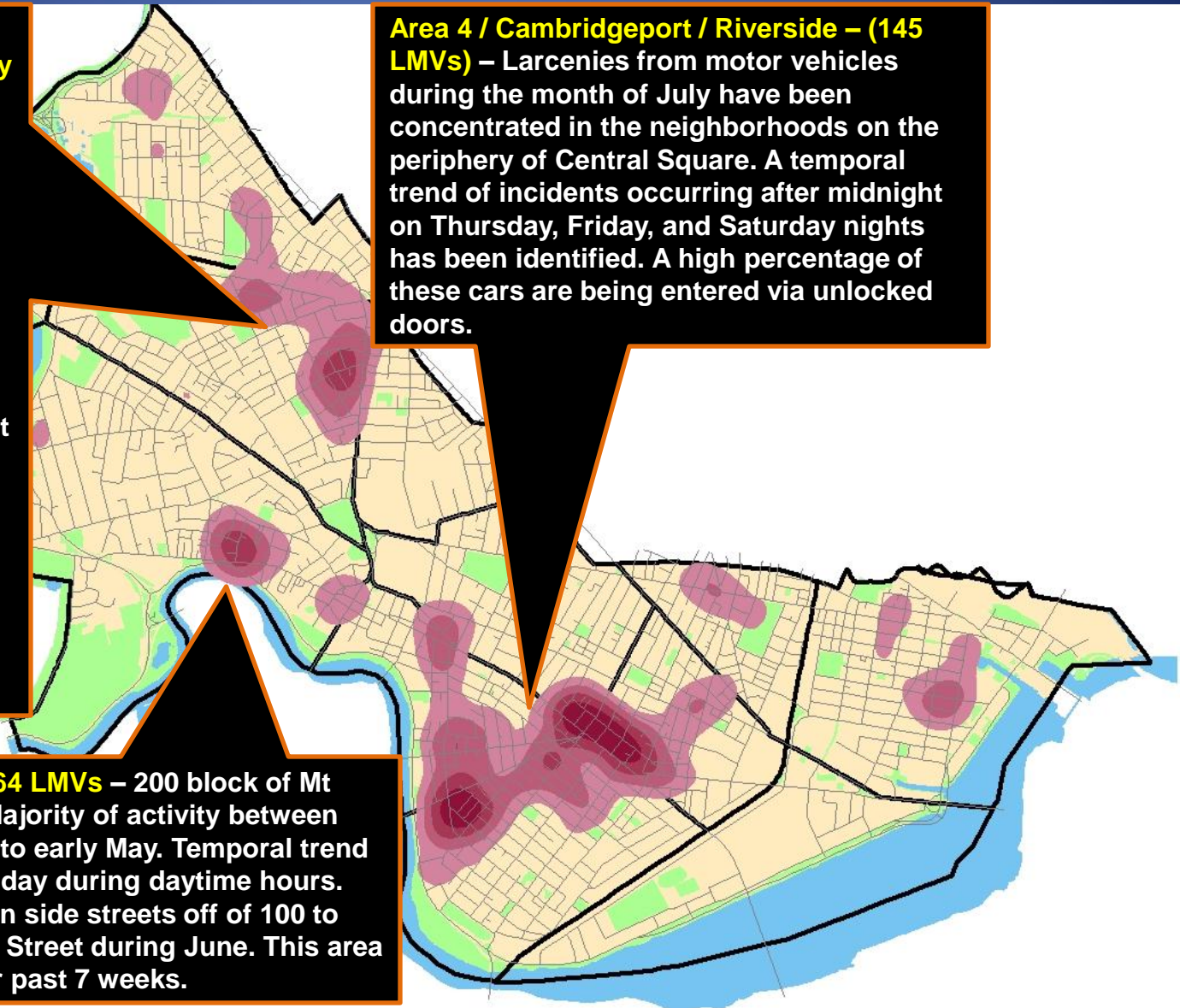


Larceny from Motor Vehicle Hot Spots in 2012

North Cambridge (53 LMVs) / Peabody (48 LMVs) – The majority of the car breaks in this area were in the first 3 months of the year. Series of arrests have cooled this area off. The expected breaks into MVs on weekend nights that have been a persistent problem during warm weather months in these areas have not materialized – Area has been exceptionally quiet.

Area 4 / Cambridgeport / Riverside – (145 LMVs) – Larcenies from motor vehicles during the month of July have been concentrated in the neighborhoods on the periphery of Central Square. A temporal trend of incidents occurring after midnight on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights has been identified. A high percentage of these cars are being entered via unlocked doors.

West Cambridge – 64 LMVs – 200 block of Mt Auburn & Brattle. Majority of activity between middle of February to early May. Temporal trend of incidents on Sunday during daytime hours. Increased activity on side streets off of 100 to 200 block of Brattle Street during June. This area has been quiet over past 7 weeks.



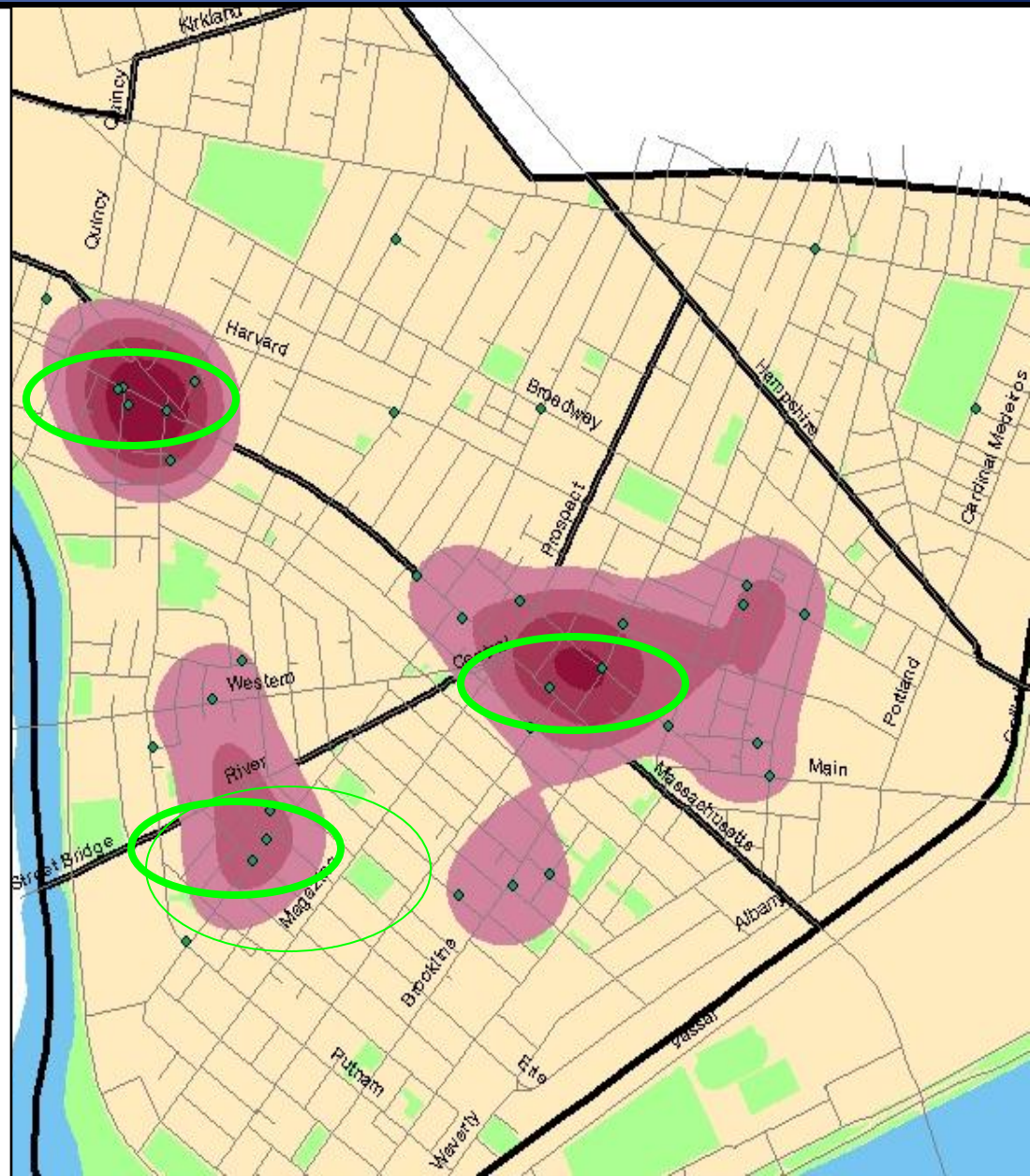


Larceny from Motor Vehicle: Hot Spots for July & August 2012

The majority of the car breaks in July and August have taken place in neighborhoods on the periphery of Central Square overnight on Thursday Friday or Saturday nights. Many involved either unlocked doors or unknown methods of entry (likely left unlocked). The rest involved smashed windows.

Hotspot areas:

- Pleasant St near Fairmont,
- Mass Ave through Central Sq
- Area bordered by Windsor St, Bishop Allen Dr, Prospect St, and Harvard St in Area 4.
- Further up Mass Ave towards Harvard Sq, area of Trowbridge St, Mt. Auburn St, and Banks St





Larceny from Motor Vehicles

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- Citizens are encouraged to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles and their belongings by doing everything possible to not make their vehicles easy targets.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
 - **Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.**
 - **Take extra care when out doing your shopping.**
 - If you are **approached by a suspicious person** while you are in your vehicle, **sound your horn to attract attention.**
 - **NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES EXPOSED IN YOUR CAR.**
 - If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, **place them in the trunk of under a blanket to conceal them**
 - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips



LARCENY: *from Person*

Emerging Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

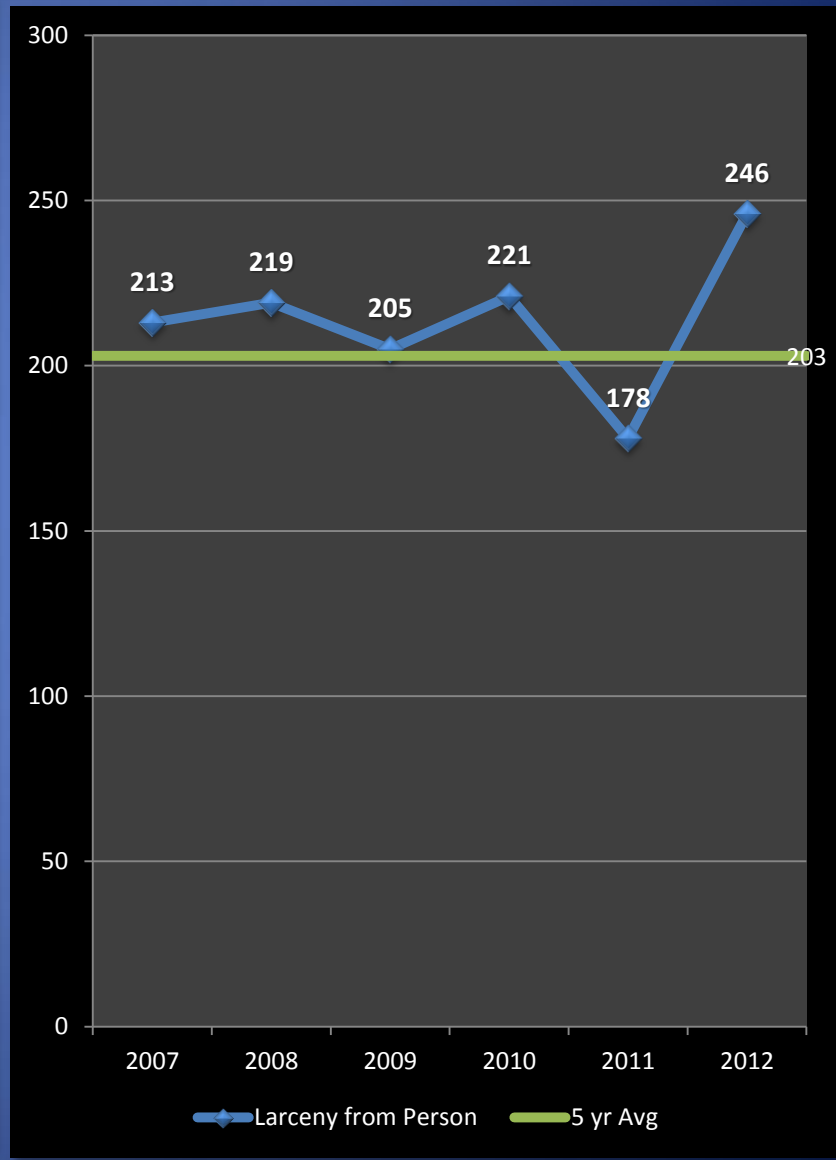
5 Year Average

-4%

+38%

+21%

- When compared to the first 8 months of 2011, larcenies from persons are up 38%. Over the last 4 weeks, there has been a decrease of 4%, with 1 fewer incident reported. The 5-year average for this larceny type averages around 203 thefts, and with 246 recorded incidents over the first 8 months of 2012, a 21% increase has been reported.
- The majority of these thefts, 39%, have taken place in Harvard Sq. The predominant scenario for this criminal enterprise is the theft of laptops, cell phones, and wallets from victims dining in the early afternoon between the hours of **12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. or later in the day from 5:30 p.m. to 11p.m.**
- There were also 5 thefts at the Galleria Mall during the past 4 weeks. These happened while people were distracted by shopping. They inadvertently put something down to browse and then realized their phone or purse was no longer beside them.
- Since the arrest of a professional pickpocket at the end of June, this type of activity has taken a dramatic downward turn with not a single pattern identified.





LARCENY: *of Bicycle*

No Patterns

- The 5-year weighted average of bicycle thefts for the first 8 months of the year is 225 incidents. Through August 27th of 2012, there have been 254 bikes stolen, which is 13% above the norm. Despite the fact that larceny of bicycles spiked 33% (17 additional thefts) when compared with the previous 4 weeks, when measured against the first 8 months of 2011, this property crime remains unchanged with 1 additional crime.
- The majority of thefts involved bikes that were locked but left out in the open (locked to public bike racks or sign poles, for example).

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	42	17%
Riverside	39	16%
West Cambridge	33	13%
East Cambridge	30	12%
North Cambridge	27	11%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

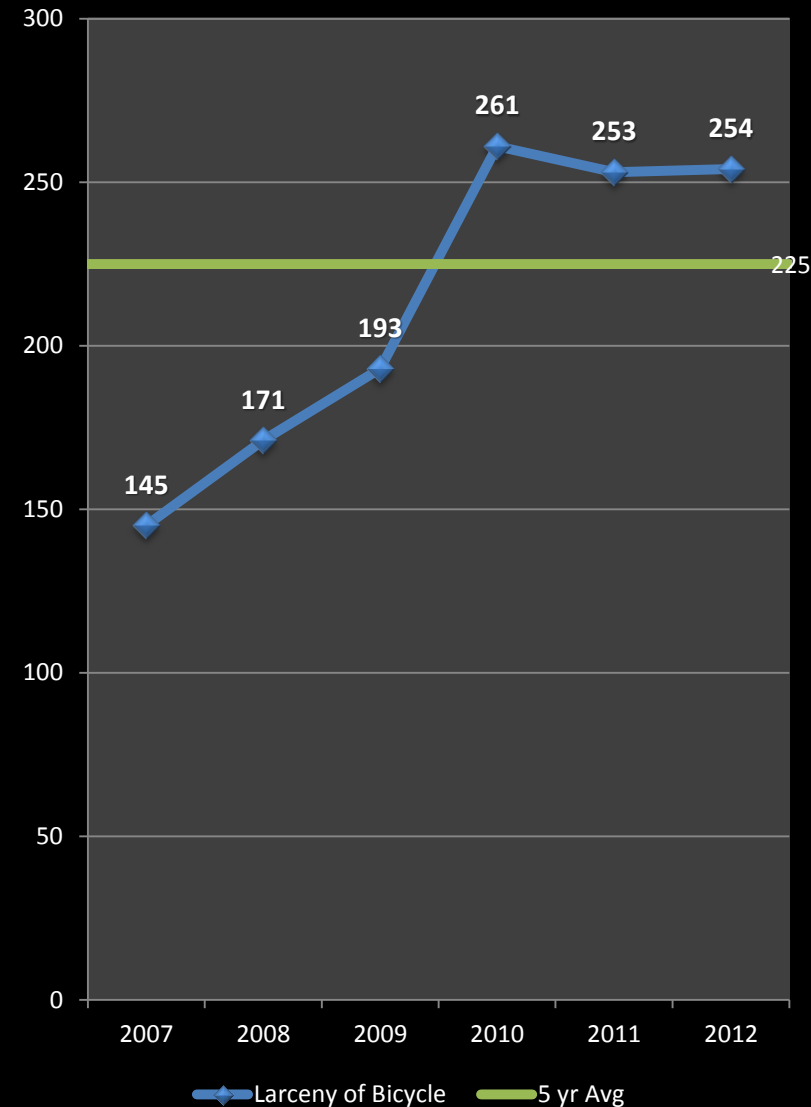
+33%

Previous Year

0%

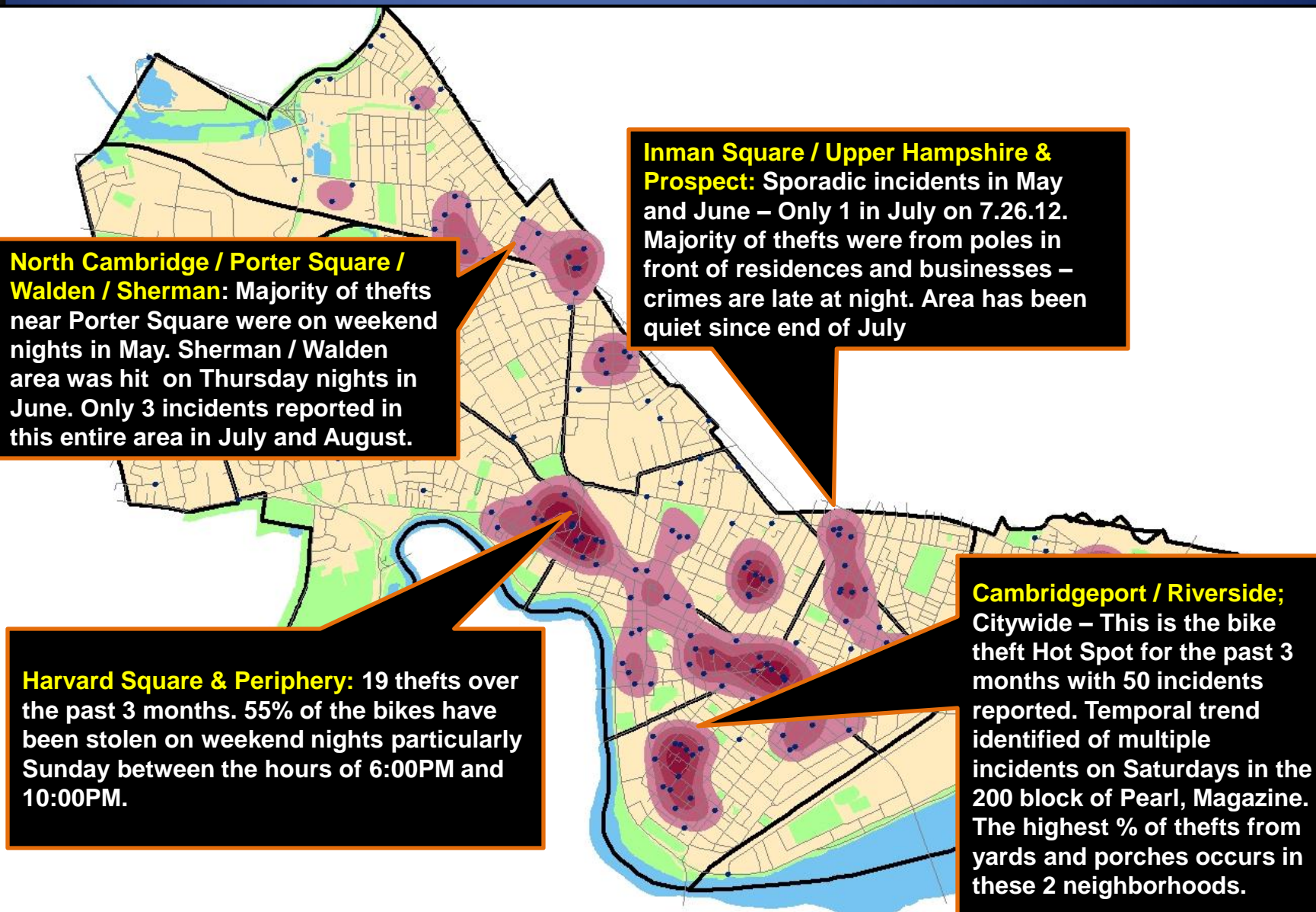
5 Year Average

+13%





Bicycle Theft in Cambridge: 5.1.12 to 8.27.12





Larceny of Bicycles:

What Can We Do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Bicyclists stopped for infractions will be reminded to use lights when biking at night, wear helmets under the age of 16, and other safety tips to promote safer biking in the city.



Citizen Response Strategy:

- Bicyclists should document serial number of bicycle in case lost/stolen.
- For more information about bicycle safety, proper locking, and what information to keep on file, visit: www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityResources.
 - Click on the “Bicycle Safety and Registration” link.
- Stores should be vigilant in recording serial numbers and customer information on sales.
- Universities should encourage students to register their bikes and distribute information on the correct locking procedures.



AUTO THEFT

Continuing Sporadic Pattern

- The projected 5-year weighted average assigned to auto theft for the first 8 months of the year is 125 incidents; there were 89 vehicles stolen from January to August 27th of 2012, translating to a substantive 29% decline. When measured versus the same time period in 2011, there were 14 fewer auto thefts counted and a 14% decline posted.
- As reported in the June and July BridgeStats, there is a regional trend of the theft of scooters and motorcycles. These incidents continued sporadically in Cambridge in August, with 2 motorcycles and 3 scooters stolen, and one attempted theft of a scooter. There had been 9 stolen in June and 5 in July.
- Boston Police have made a number of arrests of scooter and motorcycle thieves.
- There is a possibility that a substantial number of the stolen motorcycles are being chopped and sold for parts.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

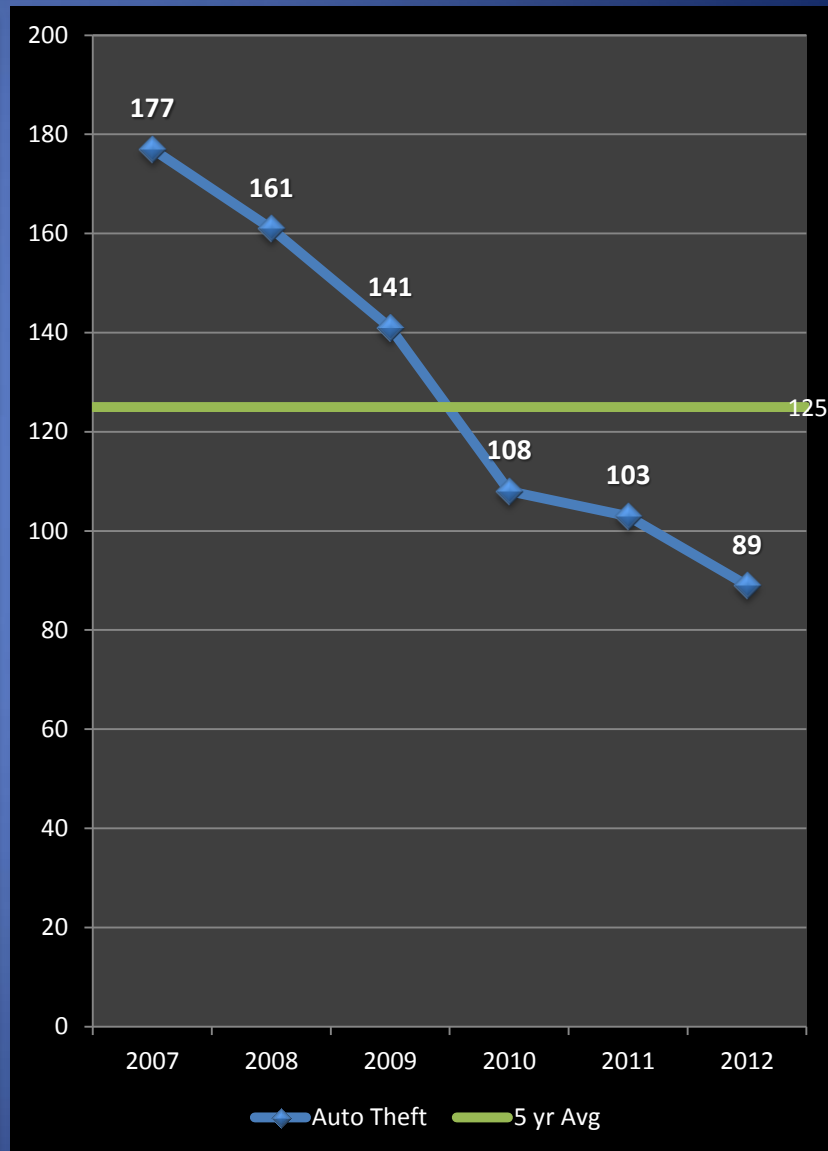
+30%

Previous Year

-14%

5 Year Average

-29%





Scooter & Motorcycle Thefts

5 completed scooter/motorcycle thefts and 1 attempted theft were reported in Cambridge during August of 2012 – no particular areas of concentration. Majority were overnight.

There has been a recent increase in motor scooter / motorcycle thefts regionally. Scooter and motorcycle thefts always peak during summer months. Likewise, sales have been on the rise.

Some ways in which residents can take extra measures to deter theft are:

- Always lock the motorcycle / scooter to a stationary object; if possible lock it in more than one way.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Park it in a garage, if possible.
- Cover the motorcycle / scooter whenever possible.

Below are some recently targeted vehicles types:



Yamaha YZF - \$11,210



Suzuki GSXR - \$11,030



Honda CBR
- \$9,645



Tao Tao Scooter
- ~\$700



Kymco Scooter
- \$1,250



Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the **Cambridge Alert Network**, to receive alerts about emerging crime patterns, neighborhood meetings, and crime prevention tips, by visiting www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our new “MyPD” smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. **If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips



Questions?

- Our detailed 2011 Annual Crime Report is now available on our [website](#).
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:
BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.